

Certification Town Hall FAQs

Asian College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (AiCVIM)

<p>What is the goal of providing exam content to AiCVIM for use in boarding their initial classes of residents?</p>	<p>The purpose is to support the growth of veterinary specialty medicine, thereby expanding client and animal access to quality care.</p> <p>This is intended to allow them time to build their resources and a cohort of board-certified specialists who can then support the development of their own exam.</p>
<p>Could someone confuse one of their diplomates with an ACVIM Diplomate?</p>	<p>The details of the arrangement will be confidential. They will not have the right to use the DACVIM mark or imply affiliation with ACVIM in any way. Passing the AiCVIM exam that is based on the ACVIM-provided content will not confer ACVIM Diplomate status. In order to be eligible to take an ACVIM exam, a person would need to complete an ACVIM approved residency training program. Taking the AiCVIM exam would not change that requirement.</p>
<p>What are the financial implications of this arrangement?</p>	<p>This is intended to be a mission-driving offering. As such, we will not incur costs, nor will we use it as an attempt to subsidize our own test development costs.</p> <p>There would be fees AiCVIM would pay to Prometric as a worldwide test partner to deliver the exams in a secure fashion. Those would be determined between Prometric and AiCVIM.</p>
<p>What security protections are in place to maintain the confidentiality of our exam content?</p>	<p>Any agreement would have strict confidentiality requirements, which would include requirements that their candidates and anyone exposed to the exam content sign confidentiality agreements. Additionally, we will require AiCVIM to administer the exam at the same time as we do. In that sense, it wouldn't be different than our administering the exam to our candidates who live in different time zones.</p>
<p>Without approving or overseeing their training programs, how can we ensure the quality of their training programs adequately prepare someone to take the exam? How do we know if our exam content is relevant in the countries in which it will be administered?</p>	<p>The exam is based on a job analysis and blueprint. It is not based on residency programs or credentials requirements.</p> <p>That said, we have reviewed their training program curricula to make sure they generally align with the standards required of our training programs.</p> <p>However, we are not approving their programs, nor are we considering the local relevance of our exam blueprint AiCVIM has considered and understands the implications of those issues.</p>

<p>Would someone who passed the AiCVIM exam be automatically qualified to take the ACVIM exam? Wouldn't that give someone who saw the AiCVIM exam an unfair advantage?</p>	<p>If someone were to complete an AiCVIM residency and take and pass the AiCVIM exams, that person would then need to complete an ACVIM approved residency and then take the ACVIM exams. The time lapse between those two exam administrations would negate any perceived advantage from taking an AiCVIM exam at in the past.</p>
<p>Would AiCVIM diplomates be allowed to serve in positions (e.g., Supervising Diplomates) within ACVIM training programs in the same as way ECVN diplomates are allowed to?</p>	<p>This would not be automatic and would need to be approved by the BOR.</p>
<p>What exams would be included in this arrangement?</p>	<p>We would provide ACVIM general exam content for delivery in 2026, and SAIM, Cardiology, Neurology and Oncology exam content for administration in 2027.</p>
<p>Are the founding members of the AiCVIM also ACVIM diplomates?</p>	<p>The current AiCVIM president is an ACVIM (Oncology) Diplomate and the immediate past president is an ACVIM (Cardiology) Diplomate.</p>
<p>What is the proposed time length for the arrangement?</p>	<p>The Council is still considering these details, but it is likely we will set a finite period and periodically evaluate the arrangement during that time to determine if it would continue.</p>
<p>Will the exams be translated to other languages?</p>	<p>No. AiCVIM understands our exams cannot be translated and will be administered in English.</p>
<p>Other Questions</p>	
<p>How do we address the issues that underly the dissatisfaction scores on the Candidate surveys? If most of the issues were in virtual settings, should we eliminate virtual testing and require candidates take exams in-person, at testing centers?</p>	<p>ACVIM and vendor partners do a comprehensive review of any technology or other issues that occur during test administration.</p> <p>Our Candidates have different preferences, both from year-to-year, and based on different personal and professional circumstances. Our goal is to provide all of the information to Candidates so they can make informed choices, while we simultaneously strive to continually improve the testing experience for all.</p>

<p>How can we test the entirety of a three-year residency with a 200 questions exam?</p>	<p>The exam is an important part of the process, but it is not a test of a three-year residency. The exam is one part of what defines a board-certified specialist. The other components are education (both training and ongoing learning post-certification), experience and ethical practice. Viewing it as a stand-alone measure of qualification wouldn't take into account these other important elements of what it means to be a certified specialist.</p>
<p>How do we ensure testing centers are widely available?</p>	<p>There are Prometric testing centers around the world, although not always within short drives of candidates. When distance prevents testing in a center, remote proctoring is possible.</p>
<p>Is the Certification Council functioning as it was intended when it was established?</p>	<p>Yes, the Council is functioning as generally envisioned by the Transformation Task Force. The Council meets every month for 60-90 minutes, and once per year in person for a full day. The voting Council members (one from each specialty and one public member) have the sole authority and fiduciary duty related to certification. They make those decisions based on their experience as Diplomates, the available research and expertise on best testing practices and standards, and what they believe is in the best interest of clients and animals.</p>
<p>How do we recreate the social connections that were established and grew from the prior collective in-person test taking experience?</p>	<p>Our exam administration process has evolved to include remote and test center locations. While this is helpful to candidates who struggled with the financial and personal burden of travelling to Forum, we know that we need to find ways to connect new members to the ACVIM and to each other. That is why Candidate engagement is a strategic priority for the ACVIM. The new Candidate Connection newsletter, focused events at Forum, and virtual engagement opportunities throughout the year all aim to foster connection with our future members.</p>
<p>Is there a plan to remove the requirement for Candidates to get in person signatures to get credentials and instead use an online platform?</p>	<p>The ACVIM custom online Candidate submission and tracking platform is currently in the development phase. We will have more information to share about rollout for use in 2025!</p>